

## Republicans to Challenge Critics of Air Defenses

By Rowland Evans Jr.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 18.—Republican members of the Senate's special subcommittee on American air power are preparing to challenge Democratic critics of President Eisenhower's air-defense policies, it was learned today.

At an opportune time in the air-power probe now under way, Sens. Leverett Saltonstall, Mass., and James H. Duff, Pa., will demand full justification of Democratic assertions that Russia is leading in the race for the intercontinental ballistic missile, often styled the "ultimate weapon."

The two Republican subcommittee members will also demand that the inquiry, under the direction of Sen. Stuart Symington, D., Mo., be broadened to take in all significant aspects of naval air power, a subject that Sen. Symington contends does not fall within the scope of the inquiry.

This was learned from reliable Senate sources. It indicated that the politics inherent in any sweeping election-year inquiry into the adequacy of Administration defense policies will not be submerged for long.

Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, spent nearly three hours before a closed-door session of the subcommittee today in what was described by one participant as a "thorough" briefing on American estimates of Russian air-power progress.

Mr. Dulles and his aids will

return to another secret session Monday to submit to questioning from committee members.

The Administration has carefully prepared Sens. Saltonstall and Duff with questions to ask and points to bring out in the course of the hearings, expected to continue for five or six weeks. The objective is to show conclusively that Eisenhower defense policies, including ground, Navy and air, are adequate to meet any Soviet military threat and to show that air policies of the Truman administration are intimately linked to the air situation today.

The Republican demand that naval air power be included within the subcommittee's study was voiced unofficially to newsmen today. It will be made formally to the subcommittee at a later date. Sen. Symington contends the panel's jurisdiction is restricted by order of Sen. Richard B. Russell, D., Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. It was understood he would resist enlarging the scope of inquiry at least until after the Air Force examination is completed.

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